

**REMARKS**

This Supplemental Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 15, 2003, and the Advisory Action dated October 14, 2003. This Supplemental Amendment supplements Applicants' Amendment and Response filed December 12, 2003. In the Advisory Action, it was noted that claims 2-6 and 16-24 were allowable and that claims 7-15 were still rejected. Moreover, in the Advisory Action claims 10 and 11 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim.

In the Applicants' Amendment and Response filed on December 12, 2003, Applicants canceled the rejected claims but inadvertently canceled claims 10 and 11. Consequently, the subject matter of these claims is re-presented herein as new independent claims 25 and 26 in accordance with MPEP 714.24. Since these claims were merely objected to due to their dependence on rejected claim 7, and since the claims have been recast into independent form, it is believed that these claims are allowable.

A Petition for a two-month extension of time was submitted with the Response filed on December 12, 2003, along with the payment of the extension fee in the amount of \$420. A check in the amount of \$172 is submitted with this Supplemental Amendment as payment of the fee for two additional independent claims. It is believed that no further fees are due with this Supplemental Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to

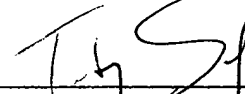
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resolve those issues.

Dated: 12/15/03



Respectfully submitted,

  
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